

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03343 212019Z

70

ACTION ARA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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P R 211940Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1684

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 3343

E.O. 11652: N/A

UNCLAS. JULY 21. FBK

OYS; VOJTW ILA; IOL. COMMERCIAL WIRE

SERVICES REPORTS ON GROWING TENSIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR, CAUSED MAINLY BY RECENT BORDER CLASHES, HAVE BEEN GIVEN FAIRLY HEAVY PLAY BY MOST PAPERS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS.

DIARIO DE HOY (HIGH CIRCULATION, CONSERVATIVE) CARRIED AN ACAN-EFE STORY BYLINED SAN JOSE WHICH QUOTED CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS ODUBER, SOMOZA, AND LAUGERUD AS "VIEWING BORDER CLASHES WITH EXTREME CONCERN" AND THAT "....FOLLOWING LENGTHY TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER", THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT AT LEAST A TEMPORARY CEASE FIRE HAD PROVEN SUCCESSFUL." HOWEVER, IN ANOTHER ACAN ITEM CARRIED BY BOTH DIARIO DE HOY AND LEADING LA PRENSA GRAFICA, THE SITUATION BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR WAS DESCRIBED AS "EXPLOSIVE" AND THE OTHER C.A. COUNTRIES FEARED A DECLARATION OF HOSTILITIES. FORMIN FACIO WAS REPORTED BY ACAN AS STATING THAT "FREQUENT BORDER SKIRMISHES HAVE CARRIED SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN RELATIONS TO A POINT OF EXTREME DANGER." AN UPI ITEM, GIVEN PROMINENT INTERIOR PAGE COVERAGE IN DIARIO DE HOY, PLAYED UP FORMIN BORGONOVOS ACTIONS IN REPORTING BORDER INCIDENTS TO THE OAS. A LOCAL ITEM IN LA PRENSA GRAFICA HIT HARD AT THE "HONDURAN FOREIGN OFFICE FOR DENOUNCING BEFORE THE OAS (ALLEGED) PROVOCATIONS BY THE SALVADORAN ARMY." THE SALVADORAN OFFICE OF INFORMATION HOTLY DENIED THESE CHARGES IN LOCAL RELEASES TO ALL PAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS.

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THIS GENERALLY SENSATIONALIST NEWS MEDIA TREATMENT SHARPLY
CONTRASTED WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA'S STATEMENT THAT "THE
DOORS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE OPEN TO ALL HONDURANS." THE PRESIDENT
TOURED THE COUNTRY LAST WEEK IN THE COMPANY OF TWO HONDURAN NEWS-
MEN (HRN'S MILTAON MATEU AND LA PRENSA'S GUSTAVO RUBI) TO SHOW
THEM SALVADORAN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS AND "LET THEM SEE PER-
SONALLY THAT IN EL SALVADOR THERE IS NO WAR PSYCHOSIS AS THERE
IS IN HONDURAS (DIARIO DE HOY)."
GRIFFITHS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANSAS03343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760281-0150
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760737/aaaabfsh.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006